Quality of Rails produced by Bhilai Steel Plant

888. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to higher costs and supply of poor quality of rails by the Bhilai Steel Plant. The Indian Railways have had to buy rails from abroad; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to improve the quality of rails produced by Bhilai Steel Plant and lower its production cost to make it competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Bhilai Steel Plant has been supplying quality rails to Indian Railways at an agreed price, which is less than the landed cost of same quality rails at the prevailing international prices. Rails are supplied to Indian Railways after undergoing stringent quality tests and inspections conducted by third party inspection agency appointed by Indian Railways.

For improving the rail quality, BSP is conforming to the latest standard IRST-12-96 which is comparable to the best in the World. BSP has also undertaken technological and production procoss improvement measures to ensure supply of quality rails at competitive prices.

Unutilised funds by PSUs

889. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various PSUs under his Ministry have generated huge funds through various measures and these funds are lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the complete details of funds generated during the last two years; and

(d) Government's plan to utilise these funds during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) The details of funds generated through Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources (excluding Budgetary Support) by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry of Steel for the last two financial years (1999-2000, 2000-2001) are given in the statement. (See below) These funds are utilised by the PSUs for meeting their expenditure.

Statement

Details of funds generated by PSUs during the last two years

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of PSUs	Generation of funds through Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Steel Authority of India Limited	2051.00	2346.00
2.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	24.67	93.66
3.	Bharat Refractories Limited	Nil	Nil
4.	Sponge Iron India Limited	Nil	2.61
5.	Manganese Ore (India) Limited	12.08	14.52
6.	MSTC Limited	2.94	3.05
7.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	88.81	85.49
8.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited	Nil	Nil
9.	Bird Group of Companies*	Nil	Nil
10.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited	10.71	11.57

1	2	3	4
11.	MECON Limited	1.75	2.93
12.	National Mineral Development Corporation	152.11	250.35 (Prov.)
	TOTAL:	2344.07	2810.18

*A Government managed company.

Leasing of houses by Bhilai Steel Plant

890. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant Administration has floated a scheme of a long-term leasing of the houses constructed by it for employees and retired employees of BSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating, *inter-alia,* the number of houses involved;

(c) whether State Government of Chhattisgarh has raised objection to the aforesaid scheme of BSP and termed it as illegal;

(d) if so, the ground on which the State Government has termed the deal as illegal; and

(e) the measures taken by BSP to resolve the issue and the results thereof? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) has offered to lease out around 9000 houses to its employees, who have served the company at least for 5 years, ex-employees, who have separated not earlier than 15 years from the date of notification of the scheme and spouses of deceased employees.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has raised objection to the scheme of BSP, as the State Government feels it violates Section 44-A of the Land Acquisition Act.